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[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.20 and A/73/L.20/Add.1)*]

73/17. Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets

The General Assembly,

Considering that technological change includes new and powerful tools that can help to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] mindful that the impact, opportunities and challenges of rapid technological change on sustainable development are being assessed in order to deepen their understanding, and recalling its resolution 72/242 of 22 December 2017, in which it decided to continue discussing the topic "Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals",

Recalling its resolutions 69/313 of 27 July 2015 and 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which it established and launched a Technology Facilitation Mechanism to support the Sustainable Development Goals, whose initial findings on this topic, as well as those of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, were presented and discussed at its third multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming resolution 72/305 of 23 July 2018 that mandated the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council to consider future trends and scenarios related to the Council theme and the long-term impact of current trends, such as the contribution of new technologies on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

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Recognizing also that technological change has enormous potential to support the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by providing them with opportunities to obtain and share information, gain access to educational and health services, generate income, engage in networking and have their voices heard,

Recalling its resolutions 72/200 and 72/228 of 20 December 2017 and other relevant resolutions, including Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/29 of 24 July 2018 on science, technology and innovation for development, and noting the developments in the work on emerging technologies by several United Nations system entities,

Bearing in mind the reference to the critical role of science, technology and innovation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to new technologies in the ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development,[2] welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on harnessing new technologies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,[3] which was discussed at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, and noting the Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies,

Noting the meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly on 18 October 2018 on the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the plenary meeting held thereafter,

Recognizing the need for Governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society, the technical and academic communities and all relevant stakeholders to be aware of the impact of the latest developments in rapid technological change on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which continue to require international and multi-stakeholder cooperation in order to benefit from opportunities and address challenges in this regard, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities, and welcoming in this regard the launch by the Secretary-General of a high-level panel on digital cooperation that will present its recommendations for effective and inclusive systems of digital cooperation among all relevant actors in the digital space, in 2019, and also welcoming the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in Turkey, by which the first Sustainable Development Goal target, target 17.8, has been achieved,

1. *Encourages* Member States to continue to consider the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets[1] in order to benefit from opportunities and address challenges, promote the development of national strategies and public policies, science, technology and innovation road maps, capacity-building and scientific engagement, and share best practices;

2. *Requests* the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, through the Economic and Social Council, to continue to consider, in a coordinated manner within their respective mandates and existing resources, the impact of key rapid technological changes, such as artificial intelligence, among others, on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and to align this endeavour with the follow-up cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in order to support the efforts of all

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[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/73/3), chap. VI, sect. F.

[3] E/2018/66.

countries towards the attainment of the Goals, including through forging partnerships with other relevant actors, organizations, initiatives and forums, and the dissemination of advances and best practices to facilitate cooperation towards this end;

3. *Also requests* the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, through the Economic and Social Council, to present their completed and updated findings on the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, with an evidence-based approach, at a session of its fourth multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, in 2019;

4. *Reiterates* the mandate of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals,[4] and encourages Member States and all stakeholders to consider its outcomes in relevant forums and to consider in the upcoming deliberation on the next cycle of evaluation of the high-level political forum on sustainable development the inclusion of the topic "Science, technology and innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets" as a cross-cutting theme;

5. *Invites* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism to strengthen synergies and mutually reinforce their work on science, technology and innovation, and requests the Secretariat to coordinate the dates of their meetings in order to avoid overlap and to ensure coherence and coordination between both entities;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take into consideration the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and Commission on Science and Technology for Development findings and related reports in his report to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, and to bring to the attention of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination the importance for the diverse United Nations entities, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, to take into consideration this issue, within their respective mandates, bearing in mind the three dimensions and the integrated and indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

7. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene within existing resources a high-level thematic debate to take stock of progress on this topic at its seventy-fourth session, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session an item entitled "Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets", in order to discuss the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including the presentation of the work of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, unless otherwise agreed.

40th plenary meeting
26 November 2018

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[4] Resolution 70/1, para. 70.